MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

17 NOVEMBER 1981

Syria

Al-Asad Speech, TISHRIN Comment -- In a speech delivered at the opening session of the People's Assembly, broadcast live by Damascus radio, President Hafiz al-Asad accused the United States of attempting to build up Israel's strength by dividing and "besieging" the Arab states. U.S. statements, he asserted, are aimed at establishing a peace in which occupation of Arab land and disavowal of Palestinian rights will continue. In urging the Arab states to negotiate with it and Israel, the United States is trying to lead the Arabs toward capitulations, Al-Asad warned, and the Arabs must "abort this plot." Stating that Israel does not want peace, Al-Asad stressed the need for the Arabs to build up their strength in order to defeat by force an "aggression" that was launched by means of force.

In a comment on the speech, reported by Damascus radio, the daily TISHRIN said Al-Asad's words mean that Syria will not allow any opportunities to those Arab regimes that are attempting to implement U.S. plans under Arab summit resolutions. TISHRIN added that Syria will not allow Arab solidarity to vote in favor of the enemies of the nation.

Message to Khalid -- Citing "unconfirmed reports," KUNA said that a message delivered on 15 November in Riyadh by Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam to Saudi King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz expressed Syria's reservations about the Saudi peace plan.

PLO

The clandestine Voice of Palestine radio reported that Executive Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Aden after a short visit to Qatar. During his stay in the PDRY, the radio said, 'Arafat will meet with foreign ministers of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front who are to hold talks there to coordinate policies prior to the forthcoming Arab summit conference in Fes. Earlier, KUNA reported that 'Arafat held talks in Kuwait with the amir and other officials. KUNA also noted that 'Arafat denied knowledge of any "Arab alternative" to Saudi Crown Prince Fahd's peace plan and renewed his support for the Saudi proposals. In an interview reported by KUNA, the PLO leader criticized all Arab states for allowing his organization to deal with the Arab people only through official channels.

Saudi Arabia

According to SPA, a 'responsible' Saudi source said that the statements made during an interview by Saudi Arabia's acting UN representative, interpreting some points of the Saudi Middle East peace plan, were personal and unauthorized. The source added that the Saudi proposal is clear and requires no interpretation.

Reaction to Bright Star Maneuvers

Addis Ababa radio reported that the foreign ministers of Ethiopia, Libya and the PDRY met in the Ethiopian capital to discuss the threat posed by the Bright Star maneuvers to the three countries. Noting that the extraordinary meeting falls within the context of their tripartite friendship and cooperation treaty, the radio said the meeting will prepare "long and short term answers to the dangerous situation" created by the U.S. maneuvers. It also reported that in an arrival statement, PDRY Foreign Minister Salim Salih Muhammad said the Bright Star exercises show that the United States is prepared to interfere directly in the internal affairs of the countries of the region.

QNA reported that the Qatari newspaper AL-'ARAB said the Bright Star maneuvers aim to create tension and will transform the Middle East into an arena of "horrifying international conflict." AL-'ARAB warned that the U.S. maneuvers will be followed by Soviet maneuvers elsewhere in the Middle East, which will pose a major threat to the region.

Israel

Jerusalem radio reported that security forces demolished four houses in Bayt Sahur and Ramallah belonging to families whose children had thrown Molotov cocktails at IDF patrols during recent disturbances. According to another radio report, security forces also demolished the house of a Bethlehem resident who had admitted throwing Molotov cocktails. The radio noted that Bayt Sahur residents reacted to the demolitions by staging a commercial strike and a demonstration attended by Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj, who denounced the punishment of parents for the acts of their children.

The radio also reported that assassins shot and seriously wounded the head of the Ramallah rural association early on 17 November. According to the radio, Palestinian nationalist circles have recently leveled harsh criticism at the rural associations in the West Bank, accusing them of collaboration with Israel.

Lebanon

The Israeli news agency ITIM, citing the UNIFIL spokesman, reported that Christian Militia Commander Maj Sa'd Haddad has issued an order barring UNIFIL troops from traveling in his territory. According to the spokesman, the order was issued after UNIFIL turned down a demand by Haddad that he be allowed to establish a foothold near the village of At-Tiri, which is under UNIFIL control. As a result of the order, several small UNIFIL units as well as UNIFIL observation posts along the border with Israel have been isolated.

Jordan

According to Amman radio, Prime Minister Mudar Badran told the National Consultative Council that King Husayn's recent visit to the United States was "successful and positive." Badran said the U.S. administration was open-minded and receptive to the ideas and principles Husayn raised, "particularly in comparison to some previous visits."

Iran

Khomeyni Speech -- In a recorded speech broadcast by Tehran radio, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni denounced the Saudi plan for peace in the Middle East as anti-Islamic. Asserting that the plan calls for recognition of Israel, Khomeyni asked if the "corrupt, adulterous and blasphemous" Israeli regime is to be rewarded for all its crimes.

Clashes With Rebels -- PARS reported three clashes between government forces and Kurdish rebels over the weekend, including one in Mahabad that lasted 5 hours and resulted in casualties among the rebel forces. Tehran radio reported clashes in Sanandaj and in Songhor District, in which Kurdish rebels suffered many casualties.

Afghanistan

Quoting Afghan dissidents in Islamabad, AFP reported that rebels shot down a Soviet MiG and killed at least 85 Soviet and Afghan Government troops in battles in and around Qandahar last week. According to the sources, the rebels still control most of Qandahar. The same sources reported fierce fighting in eastern Nangarhar Province last week.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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HUNGARIAN PARTY DELEGATION CONCLUDES VISIT

Gives Press Conference

LD040504 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 13 Nov 81

[Text] The high-ranking Hungarian party delegation headed by Tibor Baranyai, member of the Central Committee, in charge of the party affairs and social organizations of the Hungarian Workers Socialist Party [MSZMP], and his accompanying delegation, who are currently visiting the DRA, attended a press conference today held in Ariana Hotel.

The conference was attended by a representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; a representative of the PDPA Central Committee's International Relations Department and the Hungarian ambassador to Kabul.

During the press conference, Baranyai explained the stand of the party and the Hungarian people regarding the friendly and fraternal relations between Afghanistan and Hungary; and expressed the resolute and relentless support of the people and his country for Afghanistan's revolution.

In reply to a question about the prospect of reciprocal cooperation between the Socialist Republic of Hungary and the DRA in the cultural and economic fields, he said: The people, party and government of Hungary are ready to give more economic assistance to the DRA. He regarded as promising the prospect of friendly and fraternal relations between the two countries and said: These possibilities have become feasible as a result of the visits of our delegation with the DRA party and government authorities. In 1982 more delegations will be exchanged between the two countries. This by itself explains the consolidation and strengthening of relations between the two parties and our governments.

In reply to a question about relations between the parties he said: During our stay in Kabul and the talks we have held with party (?authorities) we have found that the unity of the party became further strengthened after the new development stage of the April Revolution. During this period the PDPA achieved many victories and gains. We have also carried out activities in Hungary at the beginning of this year for the unity and strengthening of our party; this shows the similarity of our two parties.

The activities of the PDPA after the new stage of the April Revolution are tremendously valuable. The formation of trade unions, social organizations and the acceptance of more toiling people are the glorious examples of these victories.

We see with pleasure that the PDPA respects the traditions, customs and rites of the people and observes these qualities in all of its activities.

Baranyai comprehensively explained the formation of the Hungarian Government and the National Front. He regarded as valuable the role and activities of the Hungarian National Front in the political, social and economic life of Hungary, and said: This front is the organization of our country's toilers, in which all workers, peasants, intellectuals, clergy and other toilers of Hungary come together and play an active role along side MSZMP for the construction of socialism in the country.

In connection with the heroism and struggles of the Hungarian people in crushing the counterrevolution, he gave a broad account and explained the role of toilers in achieving the party's objectives and foiling the intrigues of imperialism and counter-revolution.

The imperialist countries after the victory of the Hungarian revolution put all their propaganda machinery and [word indistinct] at the disposal of the Hungarian counter-revolution so that they could restore the past regime of exploitation. But our party and people rebuffed the aggressors by their self-sacrificing struggle.

He recalled with appreciation the heroic role of the saviour Soviet Army for consolidating revolutionary positions and repulsing imperialist and fascist intrigues.

At the end of the press conference the head of the Hungarian delegation explained the similarity between revolutionary movements of Afghanistan and Hungary, and said: The path which is now followed by the people of Afghanistan is one which leads to the prosperity of the people.

He regarded as beneficial and valuable his talks with the DRA Party and government authorities and social organizations, and said: As far as it was possible we explained to the Afghan authorities the experience of our party and government and we received more information about the revolutionary experience of Afghanistan.

The representative of the International Relations Department of the party's Central Committee concluded the conference by thanking the high-ranking Hungarian party delegation for attending this conference and answering the journalists' questions.

Meets Barialay

LD150553 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 15 Nov 81

[Text] Kabul, 14 Nov (BAKHTAR) -- Mahmud Barialay, alternate member of the Politburo of the PDPA CC, met yesterday Tibor Baranyai, member of the Central Committee of the Worker's Socialist Party of Hungary and his companions who are on a visit here.

They discussed matters of the mutual interest in an atmosphere of good will. The visitors from People's Republic of Hungary also met with Sattar Purdelli, the president of the Central Council of Trade Unions of Afghanistan.

Received by Karmal

LD150556 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0445 GMT 15 Nov 81

[Excerpt] Kabul, 14 Nov (BAKHTAR) -- Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the Central Committee of the PDPA and president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA, received here today a high-ranking party delegation of the Hungarian People's Republic headed by Tibor Baranyai, member of the Central Committee of Workers Socialist Party of Hungary and in charge of the social organizations and member of the Control and Inspection Commission of the HWSP CC. They discussed matters of mutual interest in an atmosphere of goodwill and cordiality.

Departs Kabul

LD152132 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 15 Nov 81

[Text] The high-ranking party delegation of the democratic Hungarian People's Republic headed by Tibor Baranyai, member of the Central Committee and head of the Hungarian Socialist Workers Party Department of Party and Mass Organizations and member of the Control Commission left for home this morning after visiting Kabul.

He was seen off at Kabul International Airport by Sayd Tahershch Paykargap, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee and head of the Central Committee Organization Department; by a representative of the party Central Committee International Affairs Department and by the Hungarian ambassador in Kabul.

KARACHI PRESS ON MUJAHIDIN, SOVIET OPERATIONS

Qonduz, Faryab, Paktia

GF131830 Karachi MASHRIQ in Urdu 7 Nov 81 p 1

[Text] London, 6 November (AGENCE AFGHAN PRESSE) -- The Soviet Army has bombarded several areas around Qandahar and other towns in Afghanistan in recent days. These include the provinces of Qonduz and Faryab in the north bordering the Soviet Union and Paktia Province in the south. In the latter case the cantonment of Khowst in Paktia Province was bombed. The bombing is part of the plan to discourage winter attacks by the mujahidin. The aim is to destroy mujahidin strongholds around these points before the snows set in. The towns around which bombing raids have been carried out include Gardez, Khowst, Herat, Qonduz, Khanabad, Meymaneh, the capital of Faryab Province, and Qandahar.

Meanwhile, mujahidin of the Islamic Alliance of Afghan Freedom Fighters attacked the water storage facility at (Chah Ameeq) 6 km south of Qandahar on 27 October, surprising and killing the 34 government troops and Parcham Party members who were guarding the water tanks. On the next day the same party of mujahidin hit a government post north of (Chah Ameeq) and with the help of rocket launchers, cannon and grenades destroyed two tanks and four army vehicles.

In Kabul Province the mujahidin cordon around Kabul is closing in with each passing day. With the capture of Shakar Darreh subdivision by mujahidin, the communists have lost a very important defensive position northwest of Kabul. In this offensive the mujahidin captured 12 cadets of the Kabul military college. Two of them were killed in an attempt to escape. The other 10 are being tried by the Islamic court.

Ghazni Military Camp

GF131603 Karachi NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 6 Nov 81 p 1

[Text] London, 7 November (AGENCE AFGHAN) -- The mujahidin seized two Soviet tanks during an attack on a Soviet military camp in Ghazni. These tanks had been stationed at the entrance of the camp for safety.

According to the agency's Peshawar correspondent, Ghazni has been the venue of heavy fighting during the past 2 weeks. Karmal troops and a Soviet brigadier general have been assigned to Ghazni and a large quantity of arms and ammunition is sited there. A Soviet helicopter gunship is used to strafe and rocket Ghazni and surrounding districts. Early in the evening the mujahidin begin their operations outside the Soviet camp, which is located west of Sultan Mahmud Ghaznavi's mausoleum, where the ruins of the old city of Ghazni now stand.

During the 2 weeks of fighting, the mujahidin killed 38 Soviet soldiers and seized 23 Kalashnikov rifles, 6 mortars and a large quantity of ammunition. The Soviet tanks were captured by the mujahidin when, on the night of 27 October, the Soviet fled after the mujahidin attack began. The mujahidin drove the captives to a safe haven. Soviet planes and helicopter gunships are still searching for them.

Soviet helicopters have also attacked the Mohmand tribal areas in Nangarhar Province many times. These attacks, which took place on 29 and 30 October in the (Kama) district and the northeastern hills, resulted in the martyrdom of 12 mujahidin.

Village Near Zabol

GF131425 Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 7 Nov 81 p 6

[Text] London, 6 November (AGENCE AFGHAN) -- This is the story of a village in Zabol Province whose residents preferred death to capture by Soviet forces. Their ancient rifles clashing with the modern weapons of the Soviet troops, they fought until the last bullets in their rifles.

(Khala) Village is 10 km from the center of Zabol. Now it is a mass of ruins. According to the Quetta reporter of the AGENCE AFGHAN PRESSE, government forces surrounded this village with 20 tanks in an attempt to capture mujahidin but could not find any there. The troops arrested 50 citizens including old persons and 13-year-old children and detained them at Qalat's cantonment in (Bala Hesar). The children escaped with the assistance of supporters of the resistance movement. The next morning, Soviet troops backed by four helicopters were sent to (Khala). The villagers fled on seeing them. They were warned to stay where they were by helicopter loudspeakers and their escape routes were blocked. Those who possessed old rifles preferred to die fighting rather than be captured by the Soviets and formed resistance lines to allow women and children to escape. During the fighting 410 persons were martyred and 20 were wounded. The fighting ended when the villagers ran out of ammunition. Thirty-five villagers were taken captive by the Soviets and constant shelling of the village by the helicopters reduced it to rubble.

Qonduz Jail

GF161828 Karachi NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 12 Nov 81 p 1

[Text] Peshawar, 11 November, (PPA) -- Afghan mujahidin attacked Qonduz jail on 25 October and freed 420 Muslim prisoners. Many were killed in this swoop.

On 26 October the mujahidin shot down 2 jet fighters in the Afghan province of (?Helmand), which had been attacked by 57 Soviet planes.

VOLUNTEERS FOR SPECIAL POLICE FORCE SOUGHT

LD122234 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 12 Nov 81

[Announcement by the Revolution Defense Department of the Ministry of Interior -- date not given]

[Text] The Ministry of Interior requires a number of graduates of grades six, seven and eight to be admitted into the special Sarandoy courses. Those who are willing to be admitted should come to the Sarandoy Academy on 16 November with their citizenship cards and other relevant documents.

BRIEFS

INDIAN AMBASSADOR'S FAREWELL -- Mohammad Aslam Watanjar had a farewell meeting with the Indian ambassador whose term of office in Kabul has ended. [Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 14 Nov 81 LD]

SATTAR GIVES POST ELECTION PRESS CONFERENCE

BK170711 Dacca Overseas Service in English 0445 GMT 17 Nov 81

[Text] Bangladesh Acting President Justice Abdus Sattar has said he would do his best to serve the nation to justify the confidence reposed by the people in him in the just concluded presidential polls. He was addressing a post election news conference at Banga Bhahvan [presidential residence] yesterday evening.

Justice Sattar said his landslide victory in the presidential election is a victory of the democracy and the peace-loving people of the country. He expressed his gratitude to the countrymen for cooperation in peaceful and smooth polling in the election. He also expressed the gratitude of his government to the people for further strengthening the democratic process.

Justice Sattar said his election is also a popular reaffirmation of the presidential system. The acting president appealed to all political parties to ensure the smooth functioning of democracy and assured them that there would be no impediment in propagating their respective programs. He also called upon them to cooperate with his government in strengthening the democratic process initiated by late President Ziaur Rahman.

Answering a question, the acting president dismissed the allegation that there was any rigging in the election. He said this is simply impossible.

Sattar has identified population growth, food and illiteracy as the major problems facing the nation. He said that positive steps are already underway to the materialization of the 19-point program to solve these problems. He said efforts to increase food production has already brought success and many international organizations, including the World Bank, have recognized it. He said the population control will continue to enjoy top priority. The program for increasing food production and removing illiteracy in the country will be [words indistinct], he added.

Turning to foreign policy, Sattar said that there would be no change in the country's present foreign policy and his government would abide by all the international commitments. He said that Bangladesh, being a member of the Nonaligned Movement, will continue its efforts to further strengthen the Nonaligned Movement and to have good relations with the neighboring countries.

Further Details

BK161612 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Nov 81

[Excerpts] In the Bangladesh presidential election Acting President Justice Abdus Sattar of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party has won a massive victory. With results from about 3,000 out of over 21,800 polling centers still awaited, Sattar's lead over his nearest rival, Dr Kamal Hossain of the Awami League, is 7,300,000.

Talking to foreign newsmen in Dacca this evening Sattar dismissed Dr Kamal Hossain's charge of rigging. He said except for minor scuffles there was no large-scale violence. He said it is a massive verdict for peace and stability and a testimony of the regard people had for the late President Ziaur Rahman. Our correspondent adds that Sattar declared that there will be no change in the foreign policy of Bangladesh. Asked about the relations with India he said there is no difficulty at present. The two countries are trying to solve Farakka and other issues bilaterally.

Replying to a question Sattar said there is no role for the army other than to defend the country's sovereignty. He said a decision on a vice president will be taken after he is sworn in.

U.S. TALKS ON TARAPUR END WITHOUT COMPROMISE

BK161626 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Nov 81

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig is likely to visit India before the end of the year. The primary purpose of his visit is to take part in a meeting of the Indo-U.S. joint commission; he is the cochairman of the commission.

Assistant Secretary of State James Malone is also coming to New Delhi later this month or early in December to attend the meeting of the subcommission on science and technology. In the recent talks in Washington on the supply of enriched uranium for the Tarapur plant, Malone represented the U.S. side while the Indian delegation comprised Cochairman of the Atomic Energy Commission Dr H.N. Sethna and Eric Gonsalves, secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs.

At the end of their talks the two sides said in a statement that they would report to their respective governments. According to sources in New Delhi, the Washington talks ended without any compromise. The United States insisted on some new form of safeguards while India pointed out that all the safeguards are inherent in the original Indo-U.S. agreement and subsequent amendments. India is abiding by it and there has been no change in its stand. The agreement signed in 1963 is valid until 1993, but Washington has been refusing to honor its commitment to supply fuel for Tarapur. Agencies say that in view of the U.S. stand only course open is to terminate the agreement.

GANDHI GREETS BREZHNEV ON REVOLUTION ANNIVERSARY

BK070857 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 7 Nov 81

[Text] Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi has sent warm greetings to President Leonid Brezhnev and other Soviet leaders on the occasion of the anniversary of the Great October Revolution. In a message she said India-Soviet cooperation has become a symbol of international understanding among nations with differing political systems and has also effectively contributed to world peace.

USSR SIGNS STEEL EQUIPMENT SUPPLY AGREEMENT

BK161646 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 16 Nov 81

[Text] India and the Soviet Union have signed an agreement for the Soviet supply of equipment for the Visakhapatnam steel plant. Besides giving structures and components for the plant, the Soviet Union will also depute experts to design and supervise construction of various units.

The agreement was signed by the managing director of the project, Subramaniam, and the president of the Soviet Tyazhpromeksport, Y.N. Kalashnikov. The total value of the agreement is worth 196 crore rupees. Of this, 153 crore rupees will be credit. India will repay it over a period of (?17) years with an interest of 2.5 percent.

The 3,000-crore rupee Visakhapatnam steel plant is the third integrated steel plant being set up with Soviet collaboration. The first phase of the plant is to be commissioned in December 1985.

NEW CUBAN AMBASSADOR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS

BK161022 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1000 GMT 16 Nov 81

[Text] The new ambassador of the Republic of Cuba, Jose Perez Novoa, presented his letter of credence to President Sanjiva Reddy in New Delhi today.

Welcoming the ambassador, the president said that India and Cuba have worked together closely in the cause of world peace and greater international cooperation in various world forums including the Nonaligned Movement.

Earlier, while presenting his credentials, Ambassador Perez said that the fruitful bilateral ties and our common participation at various international forums are proof of the indestructible reciprocal friendly relations between the two countries.

HOME MINISTER OF STATE COMMENTS ON MIZO PROBLEM

BK140902 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 14 Nov 81

[Text] Union Minister of State for Home Yogendra Makwana has said the government wants to solve the problem in Mizoram through peaceful means. Talking to the All-India radio Aijal correspondent this morning he pointed out that the problem is created by only a handful of misguided elements. Though the Mizo National Front is not indulging in insurgency now, it is still collecting illegal taxes, harassing the people. This should stop.

About the border security, Makwana said strict vigil has been maintained all along the border with Bangladesh to prevent new infiltration.

BRIEFS

CULTURAL ACCORD WITH PORTUGAL -- India and Portugal have signed their first ever agreement on cultural exchange program in New Delhi. It is for 2 years from 1 January next. It covers wideranging activities in the fields of education, science, art, culture, mass media, sports and public health. The program lays emphasis on bilateral contacts and exchanges between universities and national institutions of higher learning in the two countries. [Text] [Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Nov 81 BK]

ESTIMATE OF HYDROCARBON RESERVES -- New Delhi, 7 Nov (AFP) -- The latest estimate puts India's hydrocarbon reserves from known sources at 1,700 million tonnes which is more than twice the estimate made in 1975-76. The Indian petroleum secretary, Lovraj Kumar, told a seminar of economic writers here last night that the latest estimate had been made by a group of top scientists and technologists. Based on these studies, the government had planned an indigenous production of 70 to 75 percent of the country's total crude needs in the next 2 years, he said. The total demand would be of the order of 43 million tonnes by 1984-85, of which indigenous sources would provide 30 million tonnes. Apart from the 19 million tonnes from the west coast Bombay high area, 5.2 million tonnes would come from the fields in the northeastern region and another 4.2 million tonnes from the Gujarat fields. Including a one million tonnes equivalent of gas, the indigenous availability may even exceed the 30 million tonnes estimate by a few more millions, he said. [Excerpt] [Hong Kong AFP in English 0703 GMT 7 Nov 81 BK]

HAQ HOPES FOR 'POSITIVE RESPONSE' FROM INDIA

BK161054 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 16 Nov 81

[Text] President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq has reiterated that Pakistan's proposal to India for a no-war pact is based on sincerity and manifested Pakistan's desire to live in peace and observe equality and sovereignty with all countries, particularly its neighbors.

He was talking to newsmen after inaugurating the 4-day conference on drinking water supply and sanitation in Islamabad this morning. He expressed the hope that the Indian Government will make a positive response to the proposal.

Earlier, inaugurating the conference, the president expressed his satisfaction over provision of 982 million rupees for water supply and sanitation in current annual development program.

Comments on Advisory Council

BK161555 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Nov 81

[Excerpts] About the Iranian proposal for Afghanistan, the president said that this proposal is under consideration and I have asked for further details on it.

In reply to a question as to when he was going to make an announcement about the advisory council, he said that before the establishment of the advisory council several questions have to be finalized such as its powers and its relation to the president and the Cabinet. Further, another important question has to be finalized as to whether the advisory council should be unicameral or bicameral. The final list of members of the advisory council is being considered so that best type of persons could be included in it. He said members from every constituency will be included in advisory council. Besides this, minorities, women, different professional units like trade, industry, doctors, engineers, lawyers and journalists will also be represented. He said the advisory council might exceed 350 members. He said no political representative will be included in the advisory council. Certain persons can be taken who represent nonpolitical organizations.

UN ENVOY INTRODUCES RESOLUTION ON AFGHANISTAN

BK170803 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 16 Nov 81

[Text] Pakistan has introduced a draft resolution in the UN General Assembly calling for the immediate withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan and requesting Secretary General Dr Kurt Waldheim to continue his efforts toward promoting a political settlement.

Pakistan Secretary General for Foreign Affairs S. Shahnawaz, who opened the assembly debate on Afghanistan this evening, said the conflict in Afghanistan must be resolved speedily and peacefully to end the sufferings of the freedom-loving people of Afghanistan and allay deeply felt regional and global concern. According to Pakistan television, the debate in which a large number of countries will participate is expected to last 3 days. S. Shahnawaz said the gravity of the situation inside Afghanistan has ramifications far beyond its confines. The Afghanistan crisis posed a serious threat to security and stability of the states of the region.

Discussing the draft resolution he said it avoided polemics. It takes into account the legitimate interests of all the parties concerned and provides a comprehensive basis for a political settlement. He said the problems which today confront Afghanistan and their consequences for the neighboring countries will disappear with the restoration of sovereignty, independence and nonaligned status of Afghanistan. Independent Afghanistan at peace with itself and with all its neighbors can only be a factor of stability in the region and not a threat to anyone.

The secretary general for foreign affairs also narrated the events since the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan nearly 2 years ago, how the General Assembly reacted to the situation and how the Islamic Conference and Nonaligned Movement supported its decision. He said the United Nations must play its role in bringing peace and tranquility to the long-suffering people of Afghanistan. He said the General Assembly has special responsibility for bringing the weight of international opinion to bear on all parties concerned to reach a settlement in accordance with the wishes and the aspirations of the people of Afghanistan. He said Pakistan is determined to cooperate fully with the UN secretary general to promote and accelerate the process put in motion by him to achieve a peaceful settlement of the crisis.

DAWN: IRANIAN AFGHANISTAN PLAN WORTH EXPLORING

GF161743 Karachi DAWN in English 15 Nov 81 p 6

[Editorial: "The Iranian Plan"]

[Text] While the question of a negotiated political settlement of the Afghanistan imbroglio remains practically stalled, Iran has come forward with a plan of its own to break the deadlock. Indications that an Iranian plan for Afghanistan was being discussed with Pakistan were available when the Iranian deputy foreign minister, Mr Lavasani, was on a visit to this country. The plan has now been formally announced from Tehran, and the Government of Iran has, in particular, invited the Soviet Union to begin negotiations on the suggested basis. Whether or not the plan will commend itself to all the concerned parties remains to be seen.

The plan centers on two fundamentals -- the complete withdrawal of the Soviet troops now in Afghanistan and the return of all Afghan refugees; and the recognition of the right of the people of Afghanistan to choose the type of government they want. The plan, naturally, covers the related details as well, such as the stationing of a force drawn from Islamic countries to keep the peace as the Soviet troops withdraw, the formation of a provisional government for a transitional period and its likely composition and the holding of elections and the drawing up of a constitution. The plan in its essentials incorporates the well-known four principles which have been enunciated as the basis for a settlement in Afghanistan by the United Nations, Islamic Conference Organization and Nonaligned Movement. But in addition to the fact that the sponsor's credentials are not suspect in Moscow's eyes, the plan has features which should make a good impression on Moscow, assuming that a negotiated settlement is what it seeks. As official spokesmen in Tehran have elucidated, the plan would take the Afghanistan issue out of the ambit of superpower conflict and put it back into the Islamic and regional perspective. In fact, an Iranian spokesman regretted that the Afghan issue should have been "internationalized" while it is primarily an issue that concerns Islamic countries. Afghanistan is an Islamic country and so are its two neighbors -- Pakistan and Iran -- which are most directly affected by the situation in that country and the resulting massive influx of refugees.

Iranian officials have also referred to the stationing of an Islamic peacekeeping force as a guarantee that neutrality will be maintained in full during the interim period and that the door will not be opened to the Western powers. The force is to be made up of contingents from Iran, Pakistan and an Islamic country which is opposed to imperialism and Zionism. Iran's deputy foreign minister, Mr Lavasani, clearly said that the Soviet Union should not be left with any anxiety or excuse that the withdrawing Soviet troops would be replaced by U.S.-supported forces. The spirit of the proposal is that the force to assume peacekeeping duties should be genuinely neutral and should rule out the supplanting of one superpower by another in Afghanistan.

Almost every initiative hitherto taken has foundered on the complex question of who is to participate in the negotiations. According to the Iranian proposal, negotiations can be started by the USSR, accepting the two principles and the general framework of the proposal, and among Pakistan and Iran and the representatives of the Afghan mujahidin. To the extent that it seems to rule out Kabul's participation, it is likely to evoke a Soviet rejoinder based on the stock argument that the only party competent to discuss Afghanistan is the Kabul authorities. But there is no point in anticipating Moscow's reaction to the plan. A brusque rejection by Moscow will simply kill the plan. If Moscow avoids this course and seeks elucidations, Tehran will have a chance to elaborate it. If anybody holds the key to a peaceful settlement in Afghanistan, it is the Soviet Union whose forces are engaged in fighting the mujahidin and in keeping the Karmal outfit in power. The public position of the Soviet Union is that it accepts the need for a political settlement in Afghanistan. The Iranian plan is a genuinely nonaligned move, exlcuding as it does the interplay of great powers. It is worth exploring. If it fails to win acceptance as the starting point of negotiations, it need not do any great damage to the prospect of a peaceful settlement, since other initiatives already taken will remain available for consideration by the parties concerned.

PRC ARMY CHIEF YANG DEZHI CONTINUES VISIT

Meets Defense Minister

BK161646 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Nov 81

[Text] Hang Dezhi, chief of General Staff of the People's Liberation Army of China, today met Defense Minister Ali Ahmad Talpur in Rawalpindi and discussed matters of mutual interest with him. He also met Defense Secretary General Retired Maj Gen M. Rahim Khan.

The PLA chief of General Staff visited Air Defense Command Headquarters and the National Defense College.

Calls on Haq

BK170809 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 17 Nov 81

[Text] Yang Dezhi, chief of General Staff of the People's Liberation Army of China, who is leading a Chinese military delegation, called on President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi yesterday and exchanged views on matters of mutual interest. Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee Chairman Gen Mohammad Iqbal Khan, the foreign secretary and the PRC ambassador to Pakistan were also present on the occasion.

Later, the president gave a dinner in honor of the Chinese delegation.

SOVIET ENVOY WARNS MUSAVI ABOUT U.S. INTENTIONS

LD171110 Tehran PARS in English 1032 GMT 17 Nov 81

[Text] Tehran, 17 Nov (PARS) -- Vladimir Vinogradov, ambassador of the USSR to the Islamic Republic of Iran, met and conferred with engineer Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, the prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, this morning. In this visit issues of mutual interest were exchanged, according to PARS reporter. This meeting was held at the request of the Soviet ambassador in order to elucidate his government's views on the expansionist and militaristic designs of the U.S. on the Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean.

Prime minister in turn described in detail the unique and crucial role the Islamic movement was playing in liberating the oppressed masses in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf, and referred to the direct efforts of imperialism and its reactionary agents to counter the Islamic movement in the area.

WESTERN NEWS AGENCIES TO BE 'EVALUATED'

NC161554 Paris AFP in English 1541 GMT 16 Nov 81

[Text] Tehran, 16 Nov (AFP) -- The Iranian revolution is currently in a phase of transition between the old order and the new, and authorities are busy sorting out friends from enemies, according to the minister of Islamic guidance, Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abdolmajid Ma'adikhah.

In an interview, Hojjat ol-Eslam Ma'adikhah, who is responsible for the press, said today that the state of transition was a sort of "purgatory" in which a review of friends and enemies was taking place.

"The future of news agencies will naturally be spelled out when a new order is established," he said. Agencies would be identified, he said, as "those which reflect reality and those which are tools in the hands of our enemies."

"News agencies, notably Western agencies, have acted in such a way that the people and revolutionary organs do not believe they are really news agencies," he said. Instead, they believe the agencies are a disturbing factor in the world, he added.

The hojjat ol-Eslam accused news agencies of "overrating certain problems," while "under-estimating or neglecting others."

He asked, for example, whether news agencies reported the acts for which executions were ordered "as much as they have blown up the question of executions," or whether they "speak of those who repent."

Iranian revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, who yesterday met with the minister, urged those responsible for information to "do their duty" in the face of attacks by foreign radios and newspapers.

DELEGATION DEPARTS FOR TALKS WITH U.S. FIRMS

GF161542 Tehran PARS in English 1520 GMT 16 Nov 81

[Text] Tehran, 16 Nov (PARS NEWS AGENCY) -- A seven-member Iranian delegation of experts and engineers of the Iranian National Steel Company left to Vienna, Austria. The Iranian delegation, headed by Mehdi Hoseyn, the under secretary of research and design of the Mines and Industries Ministry of Iran, is going to Vienna for holding a second round of talks with American companies according to the terms of the Algerian declaration.

Many American companies, who were accomplices in the shah's private pocketing of public money in Iran, left their unaccomplished works after the victory of the Islamic revolution although they were fully paid in advance.

The negotiations will last about 1 month. It is to be recalled that the first round of the negotiations ended on 2 Sep 1981.

KHOMEYNI URGES ARABS TO REJECT SAUDI PEACE PLAN

LD161604 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Nov 81

[Speech by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni to officials from the Martyrs Foundation at Hoseyniyeh Jamaran on 16 November -- recorded, duration 46 minutes]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. In the presence of you gentlemen -- and also the nation -- I want to discuss domestic issues as well as regional ones. As for domestic issues, it is felt and I have been informed that there is a pattern of events through which they [presumably counterrevolutionaries] intend to create division in the nation. Those who have so far not been able to succeed by any means -- whatever they tried by military action, they [word indistinct] our country, and (?created war); they created disturbances and so forth inside the country, they assassinated people and caused explosions -- saw that our nation has become more fortified and would not leave the arena; and of course, it should not. A nation that has risen for God, for Islam and has achieved an Islamic government will not retreat from such matters, and will fiercely safeguard the dear treasure that it has achieved.

Now that they lost hope of achieving anything from these various methods, they are now using the well-known stratagem: divide and conquer. It is a plan by which they intend to create division, as can be seen now in Iran. I will recite the (?gist) of this plan and warn the nation to beware, lest they awake one day and find it is too late.

One part of this plan is that, as I have been often informed, some youths, some who are not aware, or those who have been deceived with other plans, insult the great sources of Islam [the clergy], this is happening in various cities. You know that insulting the sources will do nothing but create a rift among the nation. It has no results except being against God's [words indistinct]. I ask the public that whenever they see such matters, if it is those deceived youths, they should advise them; if it is a person who has come among them from these divisive groups, they should identify them and inform the authorities.

Today, we are more in need of unity than before. Today, we are confronted by all the powers; they are (?plotting) to break this revolution and to defeat and destroy this Islamic movement and Islamic Republic.

With this plan in progress, you may realize one day that -- God forbid -- with the demise of these men who serve, a bullying regime will come in the name of Islam, with the name of the Islamic Republic in the guise of serving Islam, and all your toil and the blood that you have shed will be wasted.

Another matter, about which they have informed me (?summarily) concerns some differences of opinion among committed groups; groups who are committed to Islam and serve it, that they are creating division among these groups and others who are committed to Islam and who are serving in some parts of the country. To these groups, whoever and wherever they are I point out that they should note that the criminal foreigners are using any means to create division.

Concerning regional issues, the most important point to be raised is the proposals that have been prepared by America and Zionists and their servants. These are the proposals that Islamic governments and Arab governments wish to put forward and force on everyone. The plan has no positive points. Those who believe there are positive points in this proposal either do not pay attention to the matter or (?are ignorant). There is no positive point in any of these proposals.

Today we are dutybound to guide those Islamic countries that have today been thinking of this very, very harmful plan and intend to approve it. We should inform the Muslims and the Islamic countries; I issue a warning concerning this matter and for Islam because of this plan [presumably the Saudi peace plan]. Those who have presented this plan are either ignorant of or (?influenced by) America (?and others). Those who attach a positive value to this plan are the same. If there [words indistinct] except that Israel should be recognized; one of the points in the plan is that Israel should be recognized; one of the points in the plan is that Israel should be recognized and that Israel's safety should be guaranteed. [words indistinct]

Israel has sucked the blood of Muslims and has wronged Palestine and Jerusalem. Israel has forced the present situation in Lebanon and has killed and plundered Muslims. As a reward for all this we are now supposed to protect Israel and supply its needs. Are we supposed to recognize as legitimate a government that has from the very beginning of its arrival in Jerusalem usurped the region? Are we supposed to recognize this corrupt, adulterous and blasphemous regime? Is Israel going to be rewarded after all these crimes?

Some say that a positive point in this plan is that Israel would withdraw to its borders before the (?great) war. On the contrary, this is one of the negative points. It means that all the regions occupied by Israel will be left in its hands and only a few places will be given back. This is like us compromising with the Iraqis by giving part of Khuzestan Province to them and keeping the rest. This is one of the negative points. All the rest of the region is in the hands of Israel and this way Israel will dominate Arab nations.

I warn all Islamic and especially Arab countries, and Islamic armed forces of Arab countries, that accepting this plan without bringing it to the attention of Muslim nations will not result in anything but being enslaved by Israel and you will be servants to Israel to the end of your days; you will be at the mercy of America and Israel, blindfolded and with your hands tied behind you. For Islamic and Arab nations there is no worse disgrace than submitting to this corrupt, wrong plan which is 100 percent against Islam. It is a disgrace for Arabs to accept Israel's sovereignty. I warn everybody that if this plan is approved tomorrow, Israel will take Mecca and Medina out of your hands as well. Nations should be alert and they should awaken their governments. They should oppose this [word indistinct] and corrupt plan.

America has bared its fangs and claws in order to frighten those who have prepared this plan. America has landed its marines in the region. America has landed its divisions in the region. Actors have been summoned to act and frighten the people in the region. If governments are frightened, the nations should be awake and should not be frightened. It is far better to be dead than to be weak and subdued by Zionism and America. This is a wide-ranging step taken on U.S. orders to weaken the Arab nations and Muslims as a whole.

Shame on these Arabs who in order to achieve some dominance over a country and also gain profit would bring this disgrace on themselves. Shame on all of us if we remain silent. If governments, those governments who do not pay attention to these issues or are adamant in committing treason against Islam, and Arab nations and Muslims approve this plan then it will have no value since nations are against this plan. No nation from the Islamic world will agree to becoming a servant and a lap dog to Israel and America. Even if these governments do approve this plan, that approval will be of no value because Muslim nations are against it.

These governments should put the notion that they act for their nations out of their heads. A sheykh, a president or a so-called prince has no right to rule a country and sacrifice it for the interests of Israel. Governments should be aware that by approving this plan they are digging their own graves. These governments should not be allowed to entertain the thought that they are in charge and that governments should act and nations have nothing to do with such decisions. Governments are nothing in themselves. Nations should approve decisions before these decisions are implemented.

Nations should rise, revolt and sacrifice their lives in order to stop this plan from being implemented; there is no other way. Even if they do approve this plan, nations should oppose it and they should know that if nations oppose this plan then it cannot be implemented. I beseech Almighty God for the awakening of all Islamic nations, all governments and all youths. My message is addressed to schools, universities and other educational establishments too, university students, writers, theologians, military personnel; everyone should oppose this evil plan which legitimizes the slavery of Arab nations and Islam and puts them in Israel's hands. Those who do not oppose this plan are traitors to Islam. You should know that if nations oppose an issue then governments cannot implement it.

Today, unlike the past, governments are not able to do as they please. They should follow the will of the nation and they should be servants of the nation, not the master. They cannot build palaces like [name indistinct] palace using the nation's wealth while the nation is one of the weakest and poorest nations.

May God enlighten all of you and all Islamic nations. May God bless you with a guiding light. We should all serve Islam, the prophet of Islam and follow his bidding. Peace be upon you all.

BAHRAIN FRONT MEMBER ON KHOMEYNI GUIDANCE

GF151245 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 14 Nov 81

[Excerpt] Before the commencement of Friday prayer sermons [in Shiraz], Mr 'Alavi, member of the Bahrain Liberation Front, gave a speech. In his address, he referred to the rapidly increasing influence and expansion of the Islamic revolution in the Bahraini nation and said: People of this island and of other countries in the Persian Gulf look to the Islamic revolution of Iran and the guidance of the imam of the nation, Khomeyni the Great, with hope for freedom and liberation from the hands of the world-devouring plunderers and the shaykhs who are U.S. agents. Islam and the Islamic revolution of Iran are gaining greater influence among the people of the region with every day that passes.

INDIAN OIL OFFICIAL ARRIVES IN TEHRAN FOR TALKS

LD141822 Tehran Domestic Service in Perisan 1630 GMT 14 Nov 81

[Text] The Central News Unit correspondent reports that the Indian deputy petroleum minister arrived in Tehran this afternoon at the head of a delegation. He will hold talks on the Madras refinery in India, which is an Iranian-Indian (?project), and the sale of oil from Iran. During his visit, which will end Wednesday, the Indian deputy petroleum minister will confer with Mr (Honardust), under secretary in the Petroleum Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

AGRICULTURE MINISTER CONFERS WITH ITALIAN ENVOY

LD160607 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Nov 81

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the Italian ambassador in the Islamic Republic of Iran met and conferred this morning with Mr Salamati, the minister of agriculture and rural development, in the latter's office.

During his talks with the Iranian minister, the Italian envoy expressed his country's willingness to cooperate with Iran in the fields of mechanizing Iranian agriculture, providing Iran with Italian experience, and mechanizing rice plantations. In reply, our country's minister of agriculture expressed his gratitudes and said that during the trip he had made to Italy last spring to attend the FAO conference, he met with his Italian counterpart and also toured Italian [word indistinct] factories. The minister said: Following that trip we have dispatched a number of delegations to Italy. These delegations are currently reviewing the outcome of their tours, and after the declaration of their viewpoints we will use Italy's technology and we hope to establish mutual cooperation.

The meeting expressed the hope that the mutual relations in the fields of agriculture and economics will be expanded on the basis of mutual interest.

MISSIONS ABROAD NOTIFIED OF VISA REGULATIONS

LD161800 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Nov 81

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that the Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in a circular to all missions abroad, has notified them that henceforth they should refuse to issue visas without the authorization of the [ministry's] Passport and Visa Department for all aliens, including individuals, VIP's, economic and cultural delegations, religious missionaries and various specialists who are directly introduced to the missions by other organs of state.

The circular further states that direct contact with the missions should be avoided and that, to issue visas for aliens, action should be taken through Foreign Affairs Ministry officials and with authorization from the Passport and Visa Department.

The Foreign Ministry and foreign embassies residing at the missions concerned [as heard] are advised, from the standpoint of the welfare of their citizens and in the light of the fact that Iranian airports will refuse entry to aliens who do not have a visa, that it would be better to point out to those who wish to visit Iran that they should obtain the necessary visas from the local Iranian national airlines before buying a ticket, because the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran will not accept responsibility for such individuals from the standpoint of time wasted, losses arising out of the return of the passenger to the place of origin, and other possible costs.

Meanwhile, the Department of Protocol and the Public Relations Office of the Foreign Affairs Ministry will continue to carry out their relevant duties with regard to staff of the foreign missions residing in Iran and with regard to foreign correspondents, photographers and cameramen, as well as press affairs, respectively.

DETAILS OF 16 NOV CABINET SESSION REPORTED

LD161638 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Nov 81

[Excerpts] According to the Central News Unit, the Cabinet met this morning. The meeting opened with a recitation of verses from the holy Koran and was chaired by Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi.

The meeting reviewed the latest news concerning political and social developments, and expressed deep regret over the death of Ayatollah Seyyed Mohammad Hoseyn Tabataba'i, renowned religious philosopher, great learned man and great interpreter of the Koran. The meeting paid tribute to the late ayatollah's services.

The Cabinet also discussed the need for and ways and means of establishing greater communication with the religious seminaries and the religious leaders.

Later, the minister of labor briefed the Cabinet on his ministry's overall policy in countering disorder and irresponsible interference by certain people. The minister cited examples of certain provocatory plans underway for the nationalization of some private industry, which would damage the country's economy. The minister said firm action will be taken in this field.

The minister reiterated the need to deal firmly and logically with those employers who disregard Islamic and human principles.

Mr Ma'adikhah, minister of national guidance, discussed the government's public relations and the need to create a powerful machinery to deal with links and contacts between the government and the public. The Cabinet decided to form a committee to pursue the issue in detail and to present its results.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUES 698-700

698: 14 Nov Report

LD141800 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Nov 81

[Communique 698 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In the name of God. Using artillery and mortar fire, the brave warriors of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran have inflicted heavy losses and casualties on the enemy forces on the southern and western fronts over the past 24 hours.

Using antibattery fire, our forces in the Ahvaz region silenced the enemy's artillery, destroyed an enemy ammunition dump and mortar and killed or wounded seven Iraqi military personnel.

The valiants of the Gendarmerie of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the same region and on the Farsiat front also killed 12 aggressors during a skirmish.

In the Abadan region, the brave gendarmerie, opening fire on enemy positions, damaged an Iraqi vehicle carrying a 106-mm cannon and an 81-mm mortar. Five enemy camp buildings and [word indistinct] base were destroyed. During the operation, 1 enemy ammunition dump was set on fire and 10 foxholes and trenches were destroyed. Enemy casualties in this region included 40 dead or injured.

The criminal Saddamists, with their usual savagery, brought the city of Abadan under heavy-weapon fire yesterday, destroying a number of civilian houses and martyring or injuring a number of our compatriots.

The Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, using artillery fire, destroyed 4 enemy ammunition dumps, 2 personnel carriers with their crews and 17 trenches and foxholes in the Abadan region. A number of Iraqi soldiers were also killed or injured in these operations.

In the Khuninshahr region, exchanges of heavy-weapon fire continued. The naval combatants of the Islamic Republic of Iran opened fire on the occupied sector of Khuninshahr, destroying an enemy camp and killing a number of Iraqi military personnel.

Artillery fire by the ground forces in the western region of Dezful killed or injured 17 Iraqis. One ammunition dump, one observation post and an enemy drilling vehicle were also destroyed.

In Dasht-e 'Abbas and 'Eyn Khosh, the forces of Islam set on fire an aggressor tank and seven vehicles, including all their occupants, inflicting casualties.

Fire by the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran on enemy positions in the border area of (Tamarchin) in the Piranshahr region blew up a large ammunition dump belonging to Saddam's armed forces and damaged six enemy cannons. In the (Haj 'Omran) region, about 60 Iraqi military personnel were killed or injured by our forces' fire. Enemy ambulances took a long time clearing the dead and injured.

Exchanges of fire continued in the Tang-e Hajiyan, Dar Ballut, Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, Bazi Deraz and Sonboleh regions. In the Gilan-e Gharb region, an enemy heavy machinegun and 2 ammunition dumps were destroyed and 10 aggressors were killed or wounded.

Seven trenches in the (Diyareh) region were destroyed by our forces' fire and a number of buildings inside the Iraqi garrison of (Diyareh) were destroyed. During the same operations two Iraqi vehicles and their occupants were set on fire.

A number of Iraqi aggressor aircraft violated the airspace of the three southern cities yesterday but were driven off by fire from the air defense units of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

On 11 and 12 November 12 of our brothers, personnel of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, were martyred. God willing, they will join the master of the martyrs, Hoseyn ibn 'Ali, peace be upon him, and other martyrs in the eternal world.

699: 15 Nov Report

LD151842 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Nov 81

[Communique 699 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. Some of the operations and self-sacrifices of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the conditions on the battlefronts are announced as follows:

Exchanges of artillery and heavy-weapon fire continued sporadically on most of the western fronts during the past 24 hours. During these operations, our able combatants neutralized all enemy fire and activity in the Tavilah sector. The enemy had 1 50-calibre machinegun destroyed; about 50 Iraqis were either killed or wounded.

Our able combatants' superior firepower controlled the situation on the Marivan fronts. During a surprise attack on Saddam's foremost lines of defensive positions and fortifications on one of the western fronts, our able self-sacrificers killed or injured about 50 Iraqi personnel; they also destroyed 16 trenches and foxholes, 1 ammunition dump, 1 supply position and 1 ammunition truck.

On the fronts west of Dezful and Dasht-e 'Abbas, the combatants of the ground forces directed their severe artillery at enemy fire and prevented any form of enemy movement. One personnel carrier, two vehicles and three ammunition dumps belonging to the Iraqi forces were destroyed. During operations on one of those fronts, more than 25 of the Iraqi forces were either killed or wounded. One gun carriage, three trucks and one fuel tanker were damaged.

On the Susangerd fronts, the self-sacrificers of the ground forces returned enemy fire and, from their defensive positions controlled the Iraqi forces with their continuous fire. By pounding the enemy positions on the Abadan fronts with artillery fire, the victorious combatants of the ground forces destroyed four ammunition dumps, three vehicles and some engineering equipment belonging to the enemy. More than 35 of the enemy forces were either killed or wounded. Our forces inflicted considerable losses and casualties on the Iraqi forces by firing on fortifications and military installations in Al-Faw.

Exchange of fire continued sporadically on the Ahvaz fronts.

Yesterday, exchange of fire continued sporadically on the Khuninshahr front between the combatants of the navy and the Iraqi forces. As a result of the firing by the combatants of the navy, a number of enemy personnel were either killed or wounded and a number of observation posts, assembly points and trenches belonging to the Saddamists were destroyed.

During the past 24 hours, a number of invading Iraqi planes crossed into the airspace of a number of cities in the war regions. Our antiaircraft units forced them to flee.

700: 16 Nov Report

LD161824 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Nov 81

[Communique 700 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. After expressing our greetings to all the martyrs from the Guards Corps, the cofighters in the forces of Islam in the fields of battle between truth and falsehood, your brave sons, the valiant forces of Islam, continue their incessant attempts to expel the aggressive enemies. Yesterday the fighting personnel of the Gendarmerie of the Islamic Republic of Iran opened fire on enemy positions in the Al-Faw region and destroyed four oil depots and one military building used as an assembly point by the enemy. As a result of fire by the same fighters, two bunkers in the Wasiliyah and Ziyadiyyeh regions in Iraq were set on fire and a number of enemy personnel were killed. Also, enemy movement and activity over the Al-Faw-Basra road were stopped.

As a result of the fire of the fighting unit of the police on enemy positions, one vehicle with all its occupants and a number of ammunition bunkers and observation posts on the other side of the Arvand Rud [Shatt al-'Arab] were destroyed.

As a result of artillery fire by the Ground Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, 14 bunkers and foxholes, 3 ammunition depots, 1 mortar and 7 enemy vehicles in this region were destroyed; 43 of the Iraqi military personnel were killed or wounded.

Yesterday Abadan again came under the heavy-weapon fire of the enemy and sustained some damage. In the Ahvaz region, the fighters of the ground forces opened fire on enemy positions, as a result of which 12 of the aggressive enemy were killed and a number of them were wounded.

The operations of our heroic forces west of Dezful have been extremely effective; so much so that, as a result of the fire of our forces in this region, 2 tanks, 2 vehicles carrying personnel, 3 bunkers, 3 ammunition depots and one enemy machinegun were destroyed and 64 of the enemy personnel were killed or wounded.

In the operational areas in the west of the country, sporadic exchange of fire continued; in Kan-e Sakht, Shur-e Shirin, Meymak and Zil it was more intense. As a result of the fire of our forces on enemy artillery, mortar and infantry positions, 2 ammunition depots and 1 106-mm gun of the aggressive forces were destroyed in the [name indistinct] region and about 30 of the forces of Saddam were killed or wounded.

The brave fighters of the gendarmerie in this region destroyed one enemy assembly point and wounded six of the Iraqis.

During the battles on 14 November, 45 more of our fighting brothers were martyred, 44 of whom were from the personnel of the Ground Forces and 1 from the personnel of the Gendarmerie of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Glory be to their name and may their mission remain eternal.

GUARDS SPOKESMAN: HALF OF IRAQI ARMY DESTROYED

LD151016 Tehran PARS in English 0950 GMT 15 Nov 81

[Text] Tehran, 15 Nov (PARS) -- Commenting on the future of the war imposed by Iraq on Iran, Mafud Jazayeri, member of the Command Council and the spokesman of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) in a press conference in Tehran on Saturday afternoon said that some five Iraqi divisions had been destroyed and about 45 percent of the Ba'thist forces had been killed and over 70 percent of the enemy's air force had been ruined.

Of course, he added, the Iraqi Ba'thist Government had already made up for a part of the damage inflicted on the Iraqi Air Force.

It could be said that roughly one half of the Iraqi Army had been destroyed, Jazayeri said, adding that over 35,000 Iraqi forces had been either killed or wounded since the beginning of the war and about 7,000 enemy forces had been captured by the Islamic forces. Moreover, he stressed, about 1,000 Iraqi soldiers had defected to Iran during the same period.

GUARDS CORPS STATEMENT ON CLASHES WITH IRAQIS

LD131737 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Nov 81

[Statement issued by the Public Relations Office of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps -- date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Greetings to the courageous combatants on the fronts of Islam's war against infidelity. News of recent operations conducted by Islam's combatants is hereby brought to your attention:

In the western areas, a guerrilla group from the selfless combatants in the region of Javanrud pass launched a surprise attack against the invading Ba'thist forces stationed in this region and killed 20 of them. The guard combatants returned to their base unharmed. Our heroes took a number of weapons and grenades belonging to the invading Ba'thist forces as booty.

In the southern areas, weapons fire by the selfless combatants of the Guards Corps on the (Mansurun) front in Khorramshahr destroyed a 50-caliber gun and an RPG-7 position and their crews and four of Saddam's mercenaries. On the (Mahrizi) front in Khorramshahr, the mortar fire of the combatants of the Guards Corps destroyed an ammunition depot of the Ba'thist aggressors. Explosions in that depot continued until the next morning. A number of Saddamists were also killed or wounded on this front. Moreover, the brother guards succeeded in opening fire on a motor pool of Saddam's army and inflicted considerable damages. On the fronts along the Karun River and on the Abadan (?Chahar Taq) and (Seyyed Jaber) fronts, the Guards Corps succeeded in destroying a communications position and two ammunition depots belonging to the Ba'thist mercenaries and killed or wounded a number of aggressors.

KURDS ATTACK IRAQI PHONE EXCHANGE, GARRISON

LD141752 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Nov 81

[Text] The Central News Unit reports from Sanandaj that on 11 November a group of Iraqi Kurdish combatants attacked the telephone exchange in the town of Sayyid Sadiq and set fire to it using flammable chemicals.

A large amount of light communication equipment was taken.

On 10 November a group of Iraqi Muslim Kurdish combatants, using RPG-7 and other light weapons attacked the [name indistinct] garrison inside Iraq.

The Central News Unit correspondent in Sanandaj reports that during 8-9 November, the Muslim people of As-Sulaymaniyah demonstrated against the fascist Iraqi regime.

FORCES FOIL 'COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY' ATTACK

LD141854 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Nov 81

[Text] PARS reports that Islam's combatants opened fire and foiled the attack by counter-revolutionaries on (Pa'in Bolagh) post near Takab early on Tuesday. The counterrevolutionaries, having suffered two dead and five wounded, were forced to flee. This report, quoting reliable sources in the 28th Division of Kordestan, says that the explosion of a mine planted by counterrevolutionaries near Takab today injured three innocent people, one of whom is a woman.

GUARDS OFFICER ASSASSINATED IN BANDAR-E 'ANZALI

LD141822 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Nov 81

[Text] PARS, quoting the Public Relations Office of the Guards Corps in Bandar-e 'Anzali, reports that Brother Rasul Qanbari, a member of the mobilization department of the Guards Corps and officer in charge of adult military training in (Tezvanshahr), was attacked yesterday by a number of terrorist hypocrites in front of his house. He became a martyr while being transported to the hospital.

The report notes that the assassins escaped after carrying out this treacherous act; investigations to identify them continue.

Following this incident, the teachers of Gilan Province issued a statement condemning this cowardly assassination and asking for more decisive action by the revolution courts.

GUARDS REPORT SUCCESSES AGAINST REBELS

LD151755 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Nov 81

[Text] The Public Relations Office of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps has reported: Yesterday the combatants of Islam purged the villages of [names indistinct] near Salmas of the filthy presence of counterrevolutionaries and rebels. During mopping-up operations in the said villages, an assortment of weapons was discovered by the combatant forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Guards Corps of (Gerbakaneh-ye Sonbol) discovered and confiscated 16 sidearms from counterrevolutionaries.

On 12 November three agents of the defunct Kurdish Democratic Party surrendered with their equipment to one of the Guards Corps centers in Kordestan.

PARS REPORTS CLASHES WITH KURDS IN KORDESTAN

LD161102 Tehran PARS in English 1903 GMT 15 Nov 81

[Text] Tehran, 15 Nov (PARS) -- A group of armed counterrevolutionaries from the outlawed Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) attacked a military base 30 kms from Kamyaran near Sanandaj in Kordestan Province.

In an attack which began on Saturday night fierce fire was returned from the Islamic forces and while the attack was repelled two attackers were killed and many were wounded. No casualties were inflicted on the Islamic forces.

In another clash on Saturday in the village of Mara, in the same region, between illegally armed elements and revolutionary forces, one Muslim combatant was wounded and casualties were also inflicted on the counterrevolutionaries, but no exact figures were available.

Meanwhile, in Mahabad clashes broke out between Islamic combatants stationed in bases inside the town and armed elements. Casualties were inflicted upon the enemy in this clash which lasted for about five hours on Saturday night. No casualties were inflicted on the Islamic forces and there were no reports on the exact casualties of the counterrevolutionaries.

In purging operations, one illegally armed person was arrested and some weapons were seized in operations carried out in two villages near Salmas in Western Azarbayjan Province, and they were purged.

GUARDS INVOLVED IN CLASHES IN WESTERN AZAREAYJAN

LD161748 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Nov 81

[Summary] The Public Relations Office of the Islámic Revolution Guards Corps has reported that in a clash on 14 November on one of the Rijab fronts between the guards and the people's forces on the one hand and Saddam's mercenaries on the other, an enemy tent and 2 trenches were destroyed and more than 23 Iraqis were killed.

On the same day, as a result of the artillery fire of our forces over Saddam's positions on the Tavilah heights in Iraq, one command post, four trenches and one observation post of the forces of Saddam were completely destroyed and a number of the Iraqi forces were killed or wounded.

A statement issued by the central headquarters of the Guards Corps concerning the clashes between the brother guards and the counterrevolutionaries in the west of the country says that, as a result of a clash between the guards and illegal armed groups in Sanandaj, who late on Saturday, 14 November, were trying to create disturbances in the city, two Muslim Kurdish peshmerga were martyred and a large number of the counterrevolutionaries were killed. Yesterday morning, 15 of these mercenaries were identified by the Kurdish Muslim brothers and were arrested by the brother guards.

In a clash on 14 November between the guards and members of the defunct [Kurdish] Democratic Party in the villages of Bansi and Baqeleh in Songhor district, more than 19 members of the defunct Democratic Party were killed and a large number wounded. In this clash, three Brno guns, one G-3, one revolver and some rounds of ammunitation and a number of grenades were seized. One of the brother guards was martyred in this clash. Eight other weapons were also discovered and seized during mopping-up operations in those villages. In the Panbeh-Sapid region, near western Rijab, the guards arrested two members of the defunct Democratic Party with a considerable quantity of weapons and ammunition.

FREE VOICE OF IRAN ON FUEL, FOOD SHORTAGES

NC141621 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1500 GMT 13 Nov 81

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Compatriots: The (?clergy-dominated) ETTELA'AT newspaper has reflected the report by the Free Voice of Iran with a commentary as follows:

Radio Oveysi advises the people of Iran to store as much grain, kerosene and gas as possible for the forthcoming months, since many difficulties will be faced in furnishing these commodities, and there will be great shortages. This radio encourages the people to store commodities, inopportunely hoping to make our economy decline. What an empty thought!

First of all, we want to stress and reiterate the point that the Free Voice of Iran is not affiliated with any individual or group. This voice is the voice of the Iranian intellectuals. It is the voice of the Iranian freedom lovers. It is the voice of all Iranians who, both internally and abroad, are struggling to regain their ancestral land from the occupiers and to establish a national democratic regime and who will not stop their struggles until the achievement of their holy objective. We have also repeatedly and clearly announced our opinion on puppet-show generals and (?various other) generals and on their parades and the maneuvers with cotton bullets. But as far as our report and the comment by the loudspeakers of the clerical regime are concerned, we have to say that, contrary to the leaders of the Islamic Republic, we neither claim to be imams or messengers nor are we experts in geomancy, (?magic) and in quoting fairies and genies. What we say is based either on official and nonofficial reports, or on figures and very simply [word indistinct] calculations that are today made in all supermarkets and even in grocery shops. But of course no one expects a regime that is miles away from the 20th century and is living in an atmosphere of ignorance, superstition and rotton ideas of a medieval age to be able to understand figures, computations and calculations.

If after 3 years Iran has not yet reached the stage of difficulties and shortages for people to snatch dried bread from each other and to use (?animal dung) to heat their homes, these should not be considered to be (?achievements) by the "imam of the nation." The Iranian nation is still using its (?stocks) and the various installations and industries that were established in the period before the clerical regime are what has prevented the country from complete famine and hunger.

The report broadcast by the Free Voice of Iran on shortages in foodstuff and fuel was based on information gained from various organizations of the country and now too we warn the people of Iran and repeat that they should prepare themselves to face an extremely difficult period as far as foodstuff, consumer products and especially oil products are concerned. The (?recent report) by the (?state) radio on the mode of distribution of oil products by the Mellat Bank is the best proof of our claim.

At any rate, if our forecast on the difficulties and shortages in forthcoming months (?threatens the decline) of the economy in the Islamic Republic -- as the [word indistinct] ETTELA'AT newspaper says -- (?we are very sorry). We did not know that in the dictionary of Khomeyni's Islamic Republic there is a meaning for the word "economy" and, basically, if a sign has remained of economy in our occupied and (?calamity-stricken) country for it to have a decline. But we have to add that the report broadcast by the Free Voice of Iran on the upcoming shortages in consumer products was incomplete to an extent and we sincerely thank Mr Mohammad Salamati, the agriculture minister of Khomeyni's Islamic Republic, for granting us the possibility to complete our report. For the information of our dear listeners, we wish to quote the remarks by the Islamic Republic's agriculture minister, Mr Salamati, in an interview with the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic.

He said: (?In view of the policy adopted, the country's Agriculture Ministry) has stood in front of the international (?cartels) and we fortunately see that with this policy [word indistinct]. Even though in the near future we might face [word indistinct], but at this point [words indistinct] to ask the people to display revolutionary patience [words indistinct].

Dear listeners: This is exactly what Mr Mohammad Salamati, agriculture minister of Khomeyni's Islamic Republic, said, speaking of (?meat shortages) in the coming days. Please add meat to the (?list containing wheat and fuel) and with "revolutionary patience wait for famine, sickness, cold, cholera and the plague, because the regime of magicians, the washer of the dead and [words indistinct] have nothing more than this to present to you!

NVOI ASSAILS ARMS SALES TO SAUDIS, U.S. POLICY

TA161421 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 14 Nov 81

[Text] Dear compatriots: Washington has embarked on a dangerous and criminal game in the Persian Gulf. Simultaneously with attempts to knock together a military pact in the region -- which is opposed by most of the nations and countries of the Persian Gulf -- the United States is applying intense military and economic pressure on the Gulf's littoral countries. With the loss of the deceased shah's regime as the region's gendarme, Washington is seeking with utmost feverishness a successor to it. In the Persian Gulf the Americans are in need of a tool, a tool that can confront our Islamic Republic and that can assume the role of gendarme and will be able to safeguard the United States' military, economic and political interests in this oil-rich region.

In connection with this issue, Washington has for a long time now been relying on Saudi Arabia. The United States is striving to force Saudi Arabia to support the anti-Arab agreement signed between Egypt, Israel and the United States. By exploiting Saudi Arabia's military and economic dependence on the United States, the White House is escalating its pressure on this country, and in this respect more than anything else it is relying on its close military relations with Saudi Arabia through the sale of a considerable amount of modern military weapons. The issue is over the United States' recent deal in connection with the sale of five AWACS planes and other military weapons worth $8.5 billion to the Saudi Government.

It should be pointed out that even prior to this deal -- which is being called the outstanding deal of the current century -- Saudi Arabia was sufficiently dependent on the United States. It suffices to recall that during the past 15 years Saudi Arabia has purchased about $30 billion of arms from the United States, and that more than 7,000 U.S. advisers and experts give orders in the Saudi Army. The Aramco company, which is an American company, in fact controls the affairs of Saudi Arabia. More than 50 billion of Saudi Arabia's petrodollars are deposited in U.S. banks, and U.S bankers use these funds whenever and however they wish, as we observed in the manner in which they seized our country's bank deposits.

However, it looks as though all this does not alleviate Washington's unlimited appetite. Saudi Arabia must be associated further and firmer with America's military plans in the Persian Gulf so that it is transformed into a second Egypt and into a base in this region, and (?ultimately) to be used to sow discord among the countries of the region.

The sale of five AWACS planes with electronic radar specifically pursues this aim, although this deal under no circumstances is proof of the reduction in aid and decrease of support by the United States for Israel. On the contrary, with the finalization of the AWACS deal with Saudi Arabia, Washington announced that it will deliver a large number of modern fighter-bombers to Israel, and stressed that it looks upon Israel as the main element of its strategy in the Near East. It is noteworthy that in Tel Aviv, following official notification of the sale of AWACS planes to Saudi Arabia, measures were started in respect to neutralizing their activity. As we are aware, during the attack by Israeli planes on Baghdad's nuclear center, the planes flew through Saudi Arabian airspace. The U.S. AWACS planes which Saudi Arabia had purchased previously were flying in that country's airspace but they deliberately ignored the Israeli aircraft.

When we realize that all the personnel of the AWACS planes purchased by Saudi Arabia are American, then comprehension of the fact that all their efforts are aimed at the interests of the Pentagon and the CIA, not Saudi Arabia's, and the fact that Israel's actions as well were taken with the prior agreement of the CIA and the Pentagon, does not become difficult.

In order to allegedly calm Israel, they say in Washington that the new AWACS planes do not pose any danger to Israel. In fact, too, these planes do not pose any danger to Israel, since they operate under the supervision of the Pentagon. However, in contrast, these AWACS planes not only pose a serious danger to Saudi Arabia itself, but also to all the countries of the Persian Gulf region. The function of these planes is specifically to monitor and gather information throughout the entire Persian Gulf region toward the implementation of America's and Israel's military and strategic plans in this region. Thus, the United States has embarked on a dangerous game in the Persian Gulf region, and Saudi Arabia is the main element in the hands of the United States in these games.

The purpose of the United States is clear: To transform Saudi Arabia into the U.S. military base in the Persian Gulf. Currently the United States has several bases on Saudi Arabian soil. (?Particularly) the construction of naval and military airfields and bases on Saudi Arabia's shores in the Persian Gulf continues to be on the Pentagon's current agenda. It is not accidental that Reagan recently announced that America will not allow Iran's events to be repeated in Saudi Arabia. Reagan fears a popular and anti-imperialist revolution, and ultimately the loss of the plundering oil interests in Saudi Arabia. It is particularly for this reason that the United States has feverishly embarked on militarizing Saudi Arabia and is hitching it firmer to the wagon of its military adventures in the region.

At the same time, in this way, the Americans are escalating military tensions in this region, and by their interventions they are posing actual dangers to the independence and sovereignty of all the region's countries. Without doubt only unity of action and expression of all the true revolutionary forces of the region's countries can thwart the plots of world-devouring America.

NVOI URGES NEGOTIATIONS ON AFGHAN REFUGEES

TA131959 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 13 Nov 81

[Unattributed commentary: "Conditions Should Be Prepared for the Return of Afghan Refugees to Their Homeland"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: The problem of Afghans residing in our country, the majority of whom are deceived individuals, and some of whom also are a part of the bands of murderers, robbers, smugglers and counterrevolutionaries, is an issue toward whose solution serious and practical measures must be taken.

Concerning the second group, it should be said that these helpless and expelled elements from Afghan society are the accomplices of the dregs of the Arya Mehri regime who have fled from fear of the nation's vengeance, and in our country too they are spreading poison against the revolution and the gains of our nation under the guise of Islam.

These adventurers, who are nurtured and led by the United States, Britain, China, Egypt and Pakistan, the very enemies of Iran and true Islam, have participated and are participating in all the provocations, plots, conspiracies and bombings that are taking place in our liberated homeland by the counterrevolutionaries. A decisive and revolutionary policy must be adopted in connection with these elements, and the sacred soil of our homeland must be cleansed of their filthy presence.

However, concerning the Afghan refugees, pay attention: The Afghan refugees, not the so-called Mojahedin of Reaganite Islam. It should be said that they are individuals and families who at one time either under pressure by the khans and the feudalists, or under the impact of false and hostile propaganda left their homes and havens and resided in our country. A line of differentiation must be drawn between these two groups.

As we are aware, a great number of these Afghan refugees have not committed any crime against their people and country. Afghanistan's democratic and revolutionary government also has repeatedly announced that it is ready to accept these deceived Afghan families and provide all the necessary facilities for their housing and jobs. Numerous documents and evidence indicate that a considerable number of Afghan refugees have declared their readiness to return to their liberated homeland.

It is appropriate that our country's responsible authorities devote particular attention to this problem and prepare the necessary conditions for their return to the homeland through talks with the DRA Government.

We are all aware that the presence of one million deceived Afghan refugees in our country -- which is being exploited by the enemies of the Iranian revolution for hostile propaganda against our nation, against the Afghan nation and against our northern neighbor -- has created enormous economic and political difficulties for the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The expense of feeding and caring for these refugees alone -- under conditions when maintaining the normal living conditions of hundreds of thousands of war-stricken Iranians has posed an acute and serious task before the government -- is another burden on the shoulders of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In order to be saved from this situation and in order that the Afghan refugees be able to return to their homeland, humanitarian measures must be taken by the Government of our Islamic Republic.

The prerequisite for this, foremost of all, is the holding of talks with officials of the DRA Government who in practice have repeatedly and sincerely declared their readiness to cooperate in this respect with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Today the Afghan problem is no longer in the form that the world's imperialist and reactionary circles are portraying. The democratic Government of Afghanistan has assumed control of the country's affairs and enjoys the support and backing of the Muslim Afghan people.

It is in view of this fact and the stabilization of the situation and of the Afghan Government that every day larger numbers of deceived Afghans are returning to their liberated land through various ways, and the number of individuals and families who are ready to return to their homeland, homes and havens is increasing.

In such circumstances, it is natural and necessary that officials of our Islamic Republic focus attention on the problem of providing the necessary atmosphere, conditions and facilities for the return of the families of Afghan refugees to the homeland. Our homeland's revolutionary people expect that in a settlement of the Afghan problem an end will be put to mental prejudice, and that necessary talks will be held in this respect with Afghanistan's legal, national and democratic government.